DOCKET·NO.: MSFT-0515/37430.02
Application No.: 09/519,206
Office Action Dated: June 1, 2005

PATENT
REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
37 CFR § 1.116

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8 and 24-31 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8 and 24-31 have been rejected. Claims 1, 5, 24, and 28 have been amended. Claims 2, 4, 25, and 27 have been canceled and their features have been incorporated into their respective independent claims 1 and 24. The dependencies of claims 5 and 28 have been amended from now canceled claims 2 and 25, respectively, to independent claims 1 and 24. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 and 24-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koppolu (U.S. Patent No. 5,706,458). As noted above, claims 2, 4, 25, and 27 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejections of these claims. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3, 5-8, 24, 26, and 28-31 are allowable over the art of record for the reasons set forth below.

Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to include the features of claims 2 and 4, and 25 and 27, respectively. The claims include the features of the master table including available command and available command vectors for the application, with each command and command vector having a unique object identifier.

Koppolu fails to disclose or suggest each command and command vector having a unique object identifier. The Office Action states (with respect to original claims 4 and 27, now incorporated into claims 1 and 24, respectively) that Koppolu shows each command and command vector has a unique identifier. In particular, the Office Action points to an example of the command "technical support" being in both a word processor and a graphics program and states that it is inherent in Koppolu that a unique object identifier is used in order to get the desired "technical support" command based on the user request.
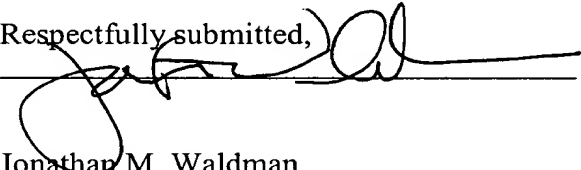
However, the features of each command and command vector having a unique object identifier is not inherent in Koppolu and instead Koppolu teaches away from the claimed features. Koppolu describes that when a server menu and a container menu correspond to the same feature (e.g., "help" menus),

> "the menu merging protocol, by convention, allows the server application program to add its server menu to the merged menu list but does not allow the container application program to add its corresponding container menu to the merged menu list. Therefore, only the corresponding server menu is available in the merged menu list, and a user cannot select the corresponding container menu when the container object is activated" (column 5, lines 15-24).

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Thus, because two different menus corresponding to the same item (e.g., "help", "technical support", etc.) cannot co-exist, it is not inherent that they have unique identifier, and instead it follows that they do not have unique identifiers, contrary to the Office Action's assertion. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the features of each command and command vector having a unique object identifier is not inherent in Koppolu and instead Koppolu teaches away from the claimed features.

Based on the foregoing, claims 1 and 24, and all claims dependent therefrom, including claims 3, 5-8, 26, and 28-31, respectively, should not be rejected as being anticipated by Koppolu. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 3, 5-8, 24, 26, and 28-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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